

-----5A9CD9 271330Z /06

O 271024Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2366
INFO AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CJTF HOA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 000304

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y //TEXT IN PARA 2//

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/27/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MA](#) [UN](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP: PREPARING
FOR THE FIRST MEETING

REF: ANTAN

Classified By: AMBASSADOR NIELS MARQUARDT FOR REASONS 1.4 D AND E

1. (C) Later this week in Addis, the AU will convene and chair the first meeting of the Madagascar International Contact Group (MICG). While about USG views on the way forward for Madagascar. The French evidently see it this way as they reportedly are sending a strong delegation for in his management of the more-or-less stalled mediation effort here and in his relations with the illegal government. This message provides sc

2. (C) Our understanding here is that the first MICG meeting will take place in Addis this Thursday (or Friday). The AU Special Envoy deploy even those formally named to the group. From USAU, we know the MICG members to be the Perm Five, the Burkinabe Chair of the April AU/PSC, Libya (represented by the Czech ambassador resident in Addis), SADC, the IOC and the OIF. Senior Mediator Tiebille Drame will represent the UN at the local German EU Presidency (conducted on behalf of Sweden) starting July 1. The EU reportedly will be represented by their ambassador in Addis

3. (C) The French, on the other hand, are sending the Quai Africa Director and Deputy Africa Director Remy Marechaux of the Elysee, a clear The French also can count on backing, as needed, from their proxies the OIC and the OIF. The current French position features strong and help consensus. It also features lip-service criticism of the excesses of the HAT regime which it does not recognize but with which it is in conste (not even military assistance to the HAT has been suspended). At the present time, as the HAT's fiscal position weakens daily (which should p France may intervene soon with direct budget support to enable the HAT to meet future payrolls and other critical expenses.

4. (C) German Ambassador Moser is not in agreement with the flexible French approach and, if given a role in the meeting, might offer some l view is that the crisis not only continues but is worsening. This is in sharp contrast to Ouedraogo's stated view - which he may well repeat - it himself. The British ambassador, resident in Port Louis, was here last week for the first time since the crisis began

FOR THE FIRST MEETING

and privately shared his astonishment at the degree to which EU views on the ground here diverge; he was particularly struck (as we are) by the

5. (C) We suggest that the USG representative at the MICG be prepared to lay down some firm markers about our expectations with respect to t

-- The U.S. applauds the AU for forming this Contact Group and convening this meeting. We look forward to working constructively within this p

-- The U.S. views this situation in the context of the recent, alarming increase in the incidence of coups d'etat in Africa and applauds the AU

-- We echo the helpful views expressed by the AU, France and other MICG members that early presidential elections, which we believe must take are the only way out of the continuing crisis that has gripped Madagascar since January.

-- We support the suggestion that the AU and other partners send to Madagascar as soon as possible an international technical team of experts t

-- We also associate ourselves fully with the concerns expressed in an April 24 joint AU-UN Communique in Antananarivo expressing deep concern

-- The U.S. further expresses its deep concern about the HAT's increasing restrictions on fundamental rights, such as the freedoms of speech ar

-- Finally, the U.S. expresses our view that the Group and its members should act in a concerted manner to put pressure on the illegal authori

-- Many of Madagascar's partners, both bilateral and multilateral, have suspended their assistance to the illegal authorities. This useful app

MARQUARDT